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ABSTRACT

This book explores the issues of democratic education and student responsibilities in the schools. There are three compelling reasons to engage students to have a direct experience of democracy as an integral part of their schooling: (1) students are most likely to understand and value democracy and develop the political skills required for effective democratic citizenship if they have the first-hand experience of participating in democratic self-governance; (2) democratic education is a powerful stimulus for full human development, including cognitive, ego, social, political, and moral development; and (3) democratic school governance offers the most practical, effective means of improving the school's moral culture, the operative moral norms that shape the behavior of the school's members. The volume includes the following chapters: (1) "Democracy in a New Hampshire School: Applied Citizenship Education"; (2) "Education in a Democracy"; (3) "The Student as Citizen: Politics and Development"; (4) "The School Within a School: A Democratic High School Comes of Age"; (5) "Democratic Governance at a Large, Diverse High School: The Brookline Experience"; (6) "The Question of Representation in a Democratic School"; (7) "Taking Part: Democracy in the Elementary School" (Ethel Sadowsky); and (8) "Education for Democracy and Full Human Competence." There are three appendices: (1) "School Government: The Council"; (2) "The Brookline High School Town Meeting"; and (3) "Some Proposals Addressed by Town Meeting." An index, and author biographies concluded the volume. Contains an extensive bibliography. (EH)

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